



Victoria Street Newz

October 2006

Sold by donation

to help end poverty & homelessness

minimum price - 50 cents

Thanks for your support!!

*"All
the
news
that
fits,
we
print"*

*May money from the sale of this
newspaper be used for peace,
and pass through healing hands.*

**Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled
newsprint with veggie ink since 2004.**
Please share, and recycle.

Vol. 3 No. 5

rock-a-buy jailhouse

PRISON, PRESS, AND PISSED!

by Betty Krawczyk

Okay, so maybe pissed isn't a nice word for a great-grandmother to be using but I find I don't care, nice is not what is happening. To any of us. Not to prisoners, the press, and/or the public at large. Prisoners are being mistreated at Alouette Correctional Centre for Women and the press is not allowed in to report it. Are the women being beaten?

Yes and no. Not with whips, but with privatization of the prison. Women are required to work at Alouette as do I when I'm there. Prisoners pay? Two dollars and fifty cents a day. That's a day, not an hour. Before privatization, women prisoners were paid four dollars and fifty cents a day. Cut it in half, was Campbells' solution. And privatize everything. Including the food. Especially the food. Eggs? Well, we won't have to worry about cholesterol. Two eggs a week. Fruit? Four pieces a week. Milk? A little powdered milk poured out of a pitcher by an attendant on a half a bowl of cereal for breakfast, a cup (that's a cup, not a glass) of powdered milk for supper. Meat, when there is any, has been frozen for awhile (a long while, I know freezer burn when I see it) and sometimes can't even be cut with the plastic knives. And the paucity of fresh vegetables is a crime. There were ten pregnant women in that prison when I left August 2 and the diet fed to them (the regular with only slight modifications) is outrageous. But this is a private food service and the company has to make a profit out of the prisoners.

Prisons have become a business and the canteen is also privatized. All of the items on the canteen list cost more than they would outside and they are of the cheapest, poorest quality available. And the beauty



Betty waiting to retrieve her belongings outside Alouette Women's Prison after her August 2nd release. photo: Monika Sheardown - monika@greendreams.com

of this arrangement for the private company is that the ruling of the Attorney General and Solicitor General is that they won't allow anything to be brought into the prison for the inmates, anything at all. Everything the women need or want has to be bought from the canteen or done without. Isn't this a lovely set up for the canteen company? A captive group of women who are forced to buy the crappiest brands of everything for inflated prices. And that's not all.

Due to a sweetheart deal with Telus, we at Alouette (and I'll be back there soon as my trial begins on Sept. 18 and Madam Justice Brown wants to teach me a lesson) must pay ninety cents for a local phone call. That's a local phone call, one that would cost a quarter on the outside. But women who make two dollars and fifty cents a day must pay ninety cents for a local phone call. There's more, but I want to get to how Campbell handles members of the press who request prison interviews.

Just before I was released from Alouette a reporter from the Georgia Straight came and took some photos of me sitting in front of a blank wall. He was told by prison authorities in no uncertain terms to delete the photos and after he left I was advised that in the future there would be no more private interviews which meant that any reporter who wanted an interview would have to come in

during regular visiting hours. The hitch is that there are no private visits. Visits take place in a communal hall, one crowded room, lots of noise, no privacy. And no visitor can bring in anything for the visit, not even a pencil or writing pad. And that means reporters, too.

So freedom of the press seems about like my own freedom to protest, just swallow the lies and don't do anything to upset Gordon Campbell and his offices and the courts. However, in the final analysis freedom of the press is up to the press, both mainstream and alternate. To honestly have freedom of the press, the press has to demand access to wherever that want to go that is paid for by taxpayers, to investigate whatever they want to investigate that the public pays for, to film whatever they want to film that is built and paid for with taxpayer funds. That's enshrined in our constitution, for Pete's sake.

Betty Krawczyk is a great grandmother who has spent years in prison for her efforts trying to protect wilderness. You can write to Betty at betty_krawczyk@hotmail.com, or visit her blog: <http://bettysearlyedition.blogspot.com>

Another Prison Story

Submitted anonymously

Thanks to Betty for writing this piece on the privatization of the prison system, in this case, a women's prison.

My ex-husband, I'll call him 'Larry', is in a federal prison in Abbotsford and the same inhumane cost-cutting "features" apply to men's prisons in Canada as well. Larry is a very ill man and when he had gotten to see a doctor within the institution, the doctor had told him he is "dying of malnutrition." Larry is a large man, 6'4" and large-boned. Usually, when healthy, he weighs in the range of 265-275 pounds. He is not fat. A few very expensive phone calls ago (it costs me a flat fee of \$2.52 plus 36.5 cents per minute and it costs Larry a fee he has to pay at his end) he told me he now weighs 230 pounds, alarming for his size and physical health condition because it means his body is losing muscle.

The food served in the jail system is deplorable and as Betty has stated everything available, that the inmates can pay extra for, is priced outrageously high. Money may be sent in for the inmate but those outside the prison system must make application to do so and only certain reasons given for sending in money apply. What the reasons are amount to a shot in the dark as the rules and regulations change like the coming & going of the tide. The whole system is in a state of flux with every change of government.

Nothing can be sent into a prison for the prisoner that "on the outside" would be considered completely innocuous. For example, Larry said he was out of stamps and wouldn't be able to write that week, but had to wait for the following week when he received his "allowance" for the work he does. So, I sent him some stamps. Innocent enough. The stamps were returned as they were considered "contraband." Huh? Along with the letter telling me that stamps were contraband, was also an itemized list of all other everyday items that are forbidden.

It's another world, completely foreign to those on the "outside."

I have known Larry all my life; he has a profound and enduring love for nature and all her wild creatures. He is a gentleman of great depth. He never hurt anyone but he lost his temper after months with both of us pleading and reasoning, trying to convince our new city slicker neighbours not to install



Sept 16 - the Western Canada Wilderness Committee organized a rally to protest raw log exports. Many from the industry attended. Here, BC Federation of Labour President Jim Sinclair reviews his speech while leaning on a log worth about \$.25 in stumpage (the amount corporations pay to government for a log that size).

About Street Newz

“Building Bridges
within our Downtown Community”

Coordinator & Website: Janine Bandcroft
Deliveries: Nancy Raycroft
Community Outreach: John Swietalski

The Victoria Street Newz mission is to provide a voice, and income opportunities, for economically marginalized and/or socially disadvantaged people, at the same time offering employable skills training, increased self-esteem, confidence, and pride in accomplishments.

Victoria Street Newz is sold by licensed vendors who sign a code of conduct. They buy the newspaper for \$.50 each, and resell them by donation. We like to encourage a sliding-scale economy which offers people a choice.

You can contribute to social change by supporting the Victoria Street Newz coalition and vendors, by reading information that informs you directly about poverty issues, and by taking action for progressive, peaceful, non-violent change.

Victoria Street Newz welcomes written submissions including interviews, event reviews, cartoons, poetry, photographs, or artwork, but we can’t guarantee everything will be published. We reserve the right to edit, and will not print anything libelous, racist, sexist, or homophobic. Letters sent to the editor are assumed to be for publication, must include phone number or email (if possible, for confirmation) and may be edited for length. You can publish using a pseudonym, or anonymously, if you prefer.

Opinions expressed in this newzpaper are not necessarily those of Victoria Street Newz, the editors, advertisers, contributors, readers, or publishers. Victoria Street Newz is printed on 100% post consumer recycled paper with vegetable ink, at Horizon Publications - www.horizonpublications.ca, 604-254-8840.

Submissions (due by the 1st Friday for the next month’s issue), letters, or donations can be delivered to our mailbox at:

**1027 Pandora Ave
Coast Salish Territory
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 3P6**
**or leave a message at
250-383-5144
ext 0137**
streetnewz@islandnet.com
relativenewz.ca

Contents

PRISON, PRESS, AND PISSED! - Betty Krawczyk, pg 1

Another Prison Story - Anonymous, pg 1 & 3

From the Street Newz Coordinator, pg 2

Body Count - Brian Mason, pg 2

Dear Prime Minister - Shane Simpson, pg 3

A solution to homelessness - Jack Etkin, pg 3

From Tent City to Toronto - Nicole Moyal, pg 4

Native Experience in Lillooet - Jerry Li Xie, pg 4

SocioEconomic Democracy - A Book Review - C.L'Hirondelle, pg 4

Thoughts on War - Andre Mollon, pg 4

Views From the Street - Debbie, pg 5

Dear Readers ... Red Again, pg 5

Divine Shelter - John Ducker, pg 5

St. Ann’s Update - David A. Johnston, pg 5

Left Coast Happenings - pg 6

Housing & Food Resources - pg 7

Blood for Oil - George Simich, pg 8

The EMINEM Generation - Bob Le Blanc, pg 8

Earth Charter - Gerry Masuda, pg 9

The Advocate - W. Robert Arnold, pg 9

Street Muzings - pg 10

Street Newz Supporters - pg 11

A few words from the Street Newz Coordinator

Near the end of September, BC’s provincial government announced a 1.2 billion dollar surplus. The day before, we learned the 2010 Olympics are already 2 billion dollars over budget. Of course the surplus isn’t really a surplus, it’s money diverted from social programs (like health care), and the olympic sized deficit isn’t quite real just yet. People ask me why I’m an anarchist - it’s because of stuff like this. I’ve lost faith in the dominant political structure. Hierarchies simply do not, inherently, promote equality or justice. They call it ‘democracy,’ but until it’s about more than a mark on a paper every few years, I don’t want to play.

Some may say, “if you can’t beat ‘em, join ‘em.” I can’t beat ‘em, and I sure as heck won’t join ‘em, but I’ll enthusiastically support peaceful non-violent resistance. How about the “Street Olympics?” Maybe some slalom shopping cart races, recyclable sorting, and platform dumpster diving? One friend suggested 5 handcuffs linked as our Olympic symbol, and an awards podium with 2 small dumpsters and a larger one in between. Maybe places like the Mustard Seed, Our Place, or Cool-Aid would sponsor teams. The world will be watching, and we’ve got a few good years to figure out how to get international media attention. Waddaya think?

In other, entirely unrelated news, our old phone number wasn’t disconnected in July and I may have missed some calls. Please try again at our new number - 383-5144, ext 0137 - or send me email at streetnewz@islandnet.com.



Some Kind Words From Some Thoughtful Readers

I enjoy buying my copy or copies from Ken, one of your vendors, on Douglas Street.

I am very pleased with your new monthly format...and I especially enjoy the input from Comrade, who always writes a very thought-provoking, intelligent, column.

Keep up the good work, and for those readers who really care, please, buy more than one copy at a time, and send them to your friends, and, do not forget to tip the vendors! They work hard to get this excellent little paper out to you, and to keep you informed.

Thanx so much to you Janine, and all of your staff, for allowing the rest of us to “tell it like it is!”

Sincerely, Lee Hamer, Folksinger, Victoria.

Thank you for sending this info to me, I face the same thing in Edmonton, we are denied electricity cause we cannot get the right paper to sign from the landlord, and it has to be legal, so we are unable to keep food in the house, due to no electricity, and have to go where the food is served for homelessness, thanks again

Mary, Edmonton

Body Count

Submitted by Brian Mason

No more sustainable development; what we need is a sustainable retreat.

James Lovelock, Gaia hypothesis

Every time I think about how human beings ought to live on the earth, I run into the same insurmountable brick wall. I can go from organic gardening and being vegetarian to composting and recycling, from reducing energy and fossil-fuel consumption to buying locally. I move through environmental activism and civic engagement to walking and cycling instead of driving a car. Have I missed much? But even if everyone in the world began to do these things all at once tomorrow, it wouldn’t make any appreciable difference to the catastrophic environmental mess the human race now finds itself in. Oh sure, a few of the consequences may be delayed a bit but, unfortunately, the script is written: we’re more or less screwed, and we’re in the final act. There’s an enormous and visible spectre looming over all of humanity, yet few acknowledge it.

No matter what we do or how many people do it or how good their intentions, we all face a brutal reality: There are too many - far, far, far too many - human beings on the face of the earth. Many more are added every day. You may have heard that the rate of population growth has slowed, so that we are now entitled to kick back a bit, maybe have a few more children, or increase immigration to offset Canada’s low birth-rate. While true on one level (there’s been a miniscule slowing in the rate of growth of world human population), it is completely misleading. Our numbers just keep getting bigger.

From the dawn of human beings to the turn of the nineteenth century, world population grew to a total of one billion people. Within another one hundred years in 1900, when some people still living today were born, it had already hit 1.7 billion. By the end of the Second World War, the human population stood at 2.5 billion. At current growth rates, it will double in another fifty-three years. We will hit nearly 8 billion by 2025. Even at our current population of 6.5 billion and counting fast, we are way past the comfortable carrying capacity of our

planet - by 39 per cent according to Redefining Progress (www.rprogress.org). Every year, the equivalent of another two Canadas are added to the world’s human load, another 75 million people to feed and water, house, clothe, transport, employ, educate and govern. Frightening, isn’t it?

Moreover, the raw numbers, sobering as they are, mask most of the human and environmental story, which is not a happy one. Fertility rates are highest in developing countries where the majority of people already live in poverty. The developed countries, with about 33% of world population, plunder and devour most of earth’s resources while the rest of the world (notably the most populous countries of India and China) hurries or hopes to catch up. It’s a race to the end of civilization.

Captain Paul Watson of the Sea Shepherd Society is one of the few activists gutsy enough to still raise the issue of human over-population as the chief environmental problem. About thirty years ago, he argues, there was a tacit agreement among leading environmental groups to remove human population issues from the agenda. Blaming human over-population for the world’s ills was seen, at that time (and by many to this day), as just another move by the majority world to shift responsibility onto poor countries when, in fact, the greater culprit was over-consumption and greed in developed nations. The environmental footprint (a measure of one’s level of resource consumption) of the average Canadian, for example, is eleven times that of someone living in Africa. In other words, one person in Canada is equal to eleven Africans in their use of earth’s resources, its water, minerals, food, shelter materials and, especially, its energy. Yet whether it is too many people in general or too many rich people consuming too much becomes an irrelevant point when the live-body count has already reached 6.5 billion. That much humanity cannot live gently on the earth regardless of the alternative fuels, approaches to agriculture or extent of local production they embrace.

How did there get to be so many of us so quickly? There are many factors, each one cruelly illustrating the law of unintended consequences. Take

your pick: the advent of the Industrial Revolution and its widespread use of the fossil-fuel coal, the discovery of oil, advances in agriculture, increased urbanization, improvements in public health and sanitation, advances in health care and pharmaceuticals, the rise of nation-states, the hegemony of global capitalism, the spread of free trade, the inventions of science and technology, and on and on. One can argue almost endlessly about these stages of ‘progress’ but one fact is indisputable - they have led, collectively, to our current human over-population crisis. They have resulted in more people being kept alive, especially through infancy, and living longer.

This inescapable brick wall - humanity’s huge and growing population - lies athwart every good action and intention, seeming to frustrate or subvert any sense of making a difference in the world no matter what we do. There are just too many of us crawling over one another looking for sustenance and space on our small planet. Simply put, no environmental strategy will be effective because there are so many of us.

I have no answers, yet one thing is clear: The human over-population crisis needs to be placed immediately at the top of every organization’s agenda, especially churches, political parties, environmental organizations, corporations, governments, universities and schools. It trumps all other environmental problems. And the media need to take off their kid gloves; they treat the issue - when they consider it at all - as background information, seldom singling it out as a chief contributor to our environmental predicament. It’s delusional for humanity to ignore this ‘elephant on the table’ any longer, even in polite company.

Brian Mason is a writer, philosopher and activist who lives in James Bay.



To: The Right Honourable Steven Harper,
Prime Minister of Canada, House of Commons,
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister:

I am writing to you concerning the future of the INSITE Supervised Injection Site in Vancouver. As you are aware, for the site to continue it requires Health Canada to renew its operating exemption under Section 56 of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. I am writing to urge you to approve the exemption to allow INSITE to continue its work and I would ask that you also continue the funding of the facility in the amount of \$500,000 annually.

The need for INSITE was clear for many years before its establishment. With over 12,000 injection drug users in Vancouver the problem is critical. As you are aware, many of these people are resident in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver, Canada’s poorest urban community. 9 out of 10 drug users in this community have Hepatitis C and 30% are HIV positive. This is a rate 38 times the national average. Further, overdoses and overdose deaths had become a growing issue.

Through the leadership of previous Vancouver Mayor’s Philip Owen and Larry Campbell and with the continuing support of current Mayor Sam Sullivan the supervised injection site has proven a valuable resource for this community. INSITE has proven its worth. With some 600 injections per day this means hundreds of people are not forced into back alleys and doorways to feed their addictions. It also means those people are not sharing syringes creating the potential for greater spread of disease and health concerns.

INSITE has also proven itself an avenue for people who are seeking help. In one year INSITE has made over 2,000 referrals to other services with a significant number of those to addiction services. This has included 1 in 5 users entering detox services. Further, INSITE has dealt with over 500 overdoses in the last two years with not one fatality.

One of the concerns about INSITE, when it was first established, was whether it would increase criminal activity and other anti-social behaviour in the surrounding communities. Some of the greatest concerns came from residents and business leaders in the Chinatown area. I would note that today almost every one of those organizations has written your government supporting the work of INSITE and encouraging you to renew your support and the Health Canada exemption.

The INSITE facility is in the Vancouver Mount Pleasant constituency and I represent the adjoining constituency of Vancouver Hastings. My constituents are some of the poorest in Canada and a number of them are victims of drug addiction and users of the INSITE facility. Further, I represent the largest urban aboriginal population in British Columbia and 18% of the users of INSITE come from the first nation’s community. I know from my experience that INSITE has played an important role in helping address a very difficult situation.

The combination of drug addictions, poverty and often mental health issues have created a situation that cannot be addressed easily or quickly. We know there are no simple answers and it will require many resources and much commitment from all levels of government and from the community to make real progress. INSITE is providing an essential tool in that work, both as a bridging measure and potentially as a long term part of the solution.

I would urge you to continue full support for INSITE as it is both a benefit to injection drug users and to the broader community both in the Downtown Eastside and the surrounding area.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important and pressing matter.

Sincerely,

Shane Simpson, MLA (Vancouver-Hastings)
Room 201J, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4
Community Office: 2365 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC, V5L 1V6
Phone: (604) 775-2277



HIV and AIDS IN CANADA
4,200 - The number of new HIV cases in Canada every year.
370 - The number of aboriginal people estimated to be infected with HIV every year in Canada.
33 per cent - The number of HIV-positive Canadians who don’t know they are infected
\$36 million - The amount of funding CIDA gave to HIV/AIDS initiatives in 2001-02
Source: Health Canada - www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hppb/hiv_aids/report02/index.html
thanks to Cathy Woods for this: www.creativeresistance.ca

Another Prison Story

con’t from page one

CCA (the A is for arsenic) pressure treated fence posts to contain their horse. Arsenic leaches from these treated posts when water makes contact with them. We are on wells out here and there is a seasonal creek that flows across their little field and runs right past our well. The leaching arsenic would have drained right into our pond and well. Horses that have “cribbed” (chewed) on these posts have died. Cows that have eaten the grass surrounding these posts have died. Then, what about the wild animals and birds that come in contact? Children who played on treated lumber have come down sick. Men who worked with CCA treated lumber have had all sorts of respiratory problems and skin rashes. Canada actually banned the sale of them over three years ago, but not soon enough unfortunately for Larry.

The new neighbours tore down the existing fence between our property and the neighbour to the east...that in itself is breaking of trespass laws, but we ignored it for the sake of good neighbour relations. Then the woman tried to divert the seasonal creek to go around her horse paddock, breaking a BC environment law. It was a nightmare around here. The neighbour to the south of these two horrors was angry with them as well and put an immediate stop to her trying to take down the fence adjoining his property with hers. He tried reasoning with her as well but it was like talking to a brick wall. The whole neighbourhood was traumatized by these two people.

Anyway, after months of trying to reason with the two alcoholic neighbours about the unreasonableness of using poisoned fence posts and suggesting alternatives and getting nowhere, Larry lost his temper & put a shotgun slug through the neighbour’s trailer at the peak of the roof and got 2 years less a day in federal prison for carelessly discharging a firearm and improper storage of a firearm. Before being imprisoned he spent two years on probation. He gets out this December 28th and will be put back on probation for 6 months.

Excessive or what!

Even though we are ex-this or that, it is only because we have had to put the property in my name and “officially” separate in order for me not to have to pay a huge capital gains tax and in the end save our home due to his going to jail. It has all been extremely tramatic not to mention stressful. Larry is paying dearly for trying to protect the environment from being poisoned. The authorities will have used up four years of his life (he is a 60 year old man) by the time they are through with him. My only hope is he survives this useless and meaningless incarceration and they don’t kill him while trying to make a buck.

An elderly lady friend of mine who is a devote Catholic informed the minister of her church in Ladysmith of Larry’s dilemma and during one Sunday mass the ladies of the church light a candle for Larry and offered up prayers for him. In a society where voices are silenced to protect the corporate profiteering and authoritarian governments are manipulated to corporate advantage are prayers all that can be relied on?

The obvious solution to homelessness is building homes. The reason we don't is that the corporate wealthy have taken the money and put it in their own pockets.

For \$1Billion we could build 10,000 units of low cost housing at \$100,000 a unit. Had we been doing this for a few years .. you can see that there would be homes for the homeless.

Instead, the wealthiest among us use their control of 'our' governments and the media to take the money for themselves.

For example: 'the Capital Gains Tax' lets people who make their money from the sale of stocks and bonds, etc... pay only half the amount of taxes that someone who works for a salary or wages would pay.

That tax loophole was worth about \$4.5 Billion in 2004 .. and more than \$2 Billion of that loophole goes to the top 1% of income earners....

So instead of using 'our money' to build low cost housing and end the homeless problem, we use the money to subsidize the wealthiest among us .. of course we don't really 'give' it to them, they take it from us through treachery and deceit.

This is only one example of how the Corporate wealthy take the billions of dollars a year that we need to create the society we want... They have the power to steal it from us because they control our governments, and we never hear about it because they also own the media .. and the media's main job is to keep Canadians OUT of the decision making loop on these kinds of issues.

They are happy to have us talk about homelessness forever, as long as we don't do what it takes to solve the problem .. namely build the homes.

Jack Etkin, Victoria
jetkino@yahoo.ca

TO THE EDITOR:

Old Afghani saying: “You can’t wash blood with blood. You must wash blood with water.”

Jeffrey Simpson’s analysis of the “tragic consequences of ‘getting Iraq’” (Sept 13 Globe & Mail) may soon be writ large in Afghanistan. For us. Considering our soldiers were sent, by Liberals and Conservatives, into a war the Yanks and Brits have already lost, mostly because of their incompetent Rick HELLIER-type officers.

After four years of bombing and 20,000 troops deployed, NATO controls parts of Kabul and Kandahar. The rest of Afghanistan is taliban, with a growing hatred of the invaders.

Do Steve and Iggie think Afghan women want to vote and get educated so badly they’re willing to see their fathers, brothers, husbands, friends and children shot by Canadians? Relatives of the 300 taliban killed last week at Panjwai are probably feeling the same grief felt by us when a Canadian soldier dies. And they are being terrorized.

The first step to end terrorism is to stop terrorizing.

By leaving Afghanistan, we risk extremists coming here. By staying in Afghanistan, we guarantee it.

Jim Erkiletian
Nanaimo BC

From Tent City to Toronto

by Nicole Moyal

I was homeless for 10 months in Victoria. I decided that without support from family and friends it would be very hard to “Beat the Street.” I left Victoria, which I loved, because of the lack of housing and decent employment (Full-time Jobs).



I am close friends with David Arthur Johnston, and the whole Tent-City/Street Crew. My name is Nicole Moyal and I am a 36 year old female. I am not on drugs or alcohol. I do not have a mental health issue. I have been employed in many different jobs for a lengthy period of time.

I dropped out because of the many problems I saw in Victoria surrounding poverty and homelessness. I was housed and working when I gave it up and “Dropped Out” to walk in sympathy with “The Poorest of the Poor.” David Arthur Johnston was a friend of mine and served as a “Catalyst” in my decision to stop paying rent, when I saw the way the society was treating a homeless man. I did not want to pay rent anymore to such a Callous System of Tyranny. I’ve since learned that homelessness is a full-time business and I’ve recently returned to Toronto to try to focus on other things than “Where can I sleep?” without being hounded by the cops and guards in the great outdoors of Victoria. I am writing to express, that yes, housing is critical for the homeless to get a start to getting off the streets and on with their lives. My mom came with me to view different rooms and has taken responsibility to pay my rent and

expenses until I find work. Sadly, many do not have such a blessing. For me it is a “Lifesaving Opportunity” to head my life in a different direction.

I suppose I am writing you to express that if you know any homeless people that have family that would be willing to help them for even a few months, it can make a huge difference. Even just living with family for a time can open up many paths for a homeless person. Housing is key. However, that individual has to be truly ready and willing to leave the streets and begin the path of becoming housed again and working. After only a 2 week search I’ve found a room for \$375 inclusive in the heart of “Little Italy.” I’m thrilled.

I’m writing to express that change is possible, hope is possible and healing is possible, if we begin to take that one tiny, first step.

Cheers, Nicole Moyal - The girl with the african drum and khaki, army backpack you may have seen wandering on the streets of Victoria! neeni70@yahoo.ca

SocioEconomic Democracy - a book review

by C.L’Hirondelle

Although relatively few people are currently writing about the concept of guaranteed income, some people have been for decades. In his 300 page book “SocioEconomic Democracy”, Robley E. George shares 33 years of research to examine how we can create a democratic economy. The first two chapters explores richly detailed history and theory of “universal guaranteed personal income” and “maximum allowable personal wealth” followed by a detailed chapter on democracy and how to have quantitative democracy to determine levels for guaranteed income.

The “Ramifications” chapter addresses the topics of environment, technology, racism, sexism, the elderly, children, labour, inflation, politics, war, planned obsolescence and more. George, like some other guaranteed income proponents, points out in the “feminine majority” section, “no longer would there be such a thing as ‘unpaid labour.’” There are also chapters on Justifications, Implementation, Incentives and Self-interest, and even Islamic economics.

While covering many complex topics, the book is not without a strain of humour throughout. George describes guaranteed income as a kind of “money-back guarantee” from “economic experts’ pet economic theories.” In the environment section, he first makes serious points about how “a guaranteed income would financially allow people to refuse work in industries that significantly pollute the environment” before going on describe another benefit: “The reduction of the further need for the avalanche of alarmist ‘doom and gloom’ books describing some particular aspect of the latest emerging or long-standing manifestation of the economic and environmental problems. This would, among many other things, save a lot of trees.”

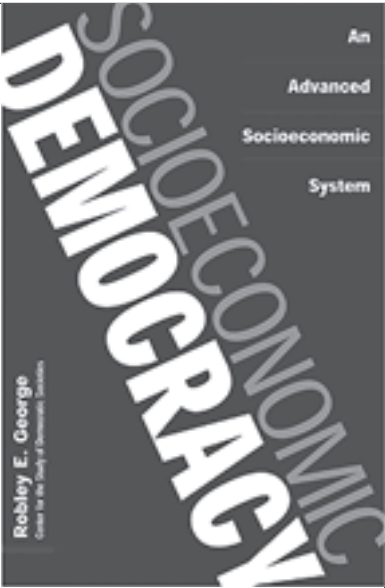
How true, how true! How many resources have been spent on describing ecological and poverty problems in the last 40 years as things get worse and worse? George points out there are current “economic incentives” for pollution and ill health creating economic activities. Indeed, as long as people need jobs to survive, acceptance of any awful industry that creates jobs will be compulsory.

I don’t agree with all parts of the book -- there are some discordant notes such as reverence for entrepreneurs like Bill Gates. In addition, there is a predominance of traditional male worldview sources and a lack of ideas from feminist economic writers such as Mariln Waring, Maria Mies and Vandana Shiva. Also overlooked is how women’s unpaid work provides the basis for all economic activity. However, George’s book is so full of interesting economic history and theory, quotes and quirky ironic commentary that it is worth reading just for this.

I had just finished reading the article “Guaranteed Livable Income and the Golden Rule” in the last Victoria Street Newz (Sept. 06) when I found a section George’s book about the Golden Rule in the chapter on democracy. George refers to an essay by Lani Guinier who points out that “The Golden Rule principle of reciprocity functions to check the tendency of a self-interested majority to act tyrannically.”

Obviously the current economic system is not in the least democratic in that the vast numbers of people in the world who are poor have no say in how the world’s natural resources are used or shared. A SocieoEconomic Democracy would create a negotiation-based democracy instead of the rules being made by a tiny minority. One of the most valuable sections of the book, although only a page long, was on how guaranteed income would benefit the environment. Most people who are in favor of guaranteed income understand the positive human health impacts, but do not make the connection on how guaranteed income would benefit the environment. This is an extremely important connection to make given our perilous ecological future if we don’t change our economic system.

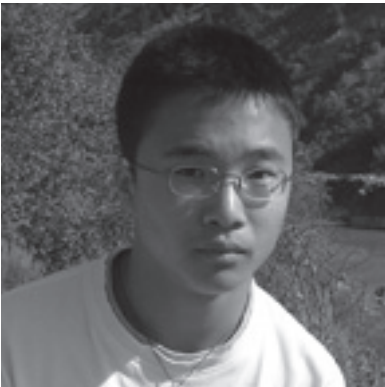
SocioEconomic Democracy (2004) by Robley E. George, published by Praeger. Reviewed by Cindy L’Hirondelle, Livable Income For Everyone: www.livableincome.org.



My Native Experience in Lillooet, BC

by Jerry Li Xie

I traveled to northern BC from August 24 to 30 with my parents. The trip was unforgettable. I was stunned by the size of the Canadian boreal forest, and also had my most unique experience with Native people. We stayed in Lillooet for a day. When we had a walk around the Old Bridge, we were attracted by tiny blue spots on the beach. We went to the river bank and saw many tents without walls—the Natives were fishing in Fraser River. Their extremely simple tents were obviously homemade; they had dried salmons hanging all over the place.



Because of curiosity, we went even closer. They saw us coming, and started asking if we want to buy fish. They spoke English, but their lives seem extremely difficult and different from ours. The family was very nice and friendly, and told us that they come from Monterey. It was the fishing season so they were moving along the Fraser River to fish, and came to Lillooet 20 days ago.

They introduced us to their family members, who were fishing with their homemade fishing gear. They were hard-working people. The way they make their living has made a huge contrast to the prevailing stereotypes about them in my mind, and my feelings were bitter and difficult. One of the family members was obviously suffering from a mental health issue (or problem), and was howling towards us.

Like us, the Natives are humans too. But they are not given a chance to choose for their lives, something which we take for granted. The inequitable rules of the society have pushed them toward the verge of collapse. They are obviously having a serious dilemma between the primitive and modern society, but are unable to control their own fates.

I have had many discussions around First Nations issues with my youth group colleagues, but have never had any real experience until that day. We went back to the beach again that night, and they were still fishing.

The only thing I regret is that we didn’t buy a fish from them when they asked us to. We left Lillooet for Prince George the next day. On the mountain cliff beside the emerald green river, little blue tents were all over the place, like pieces of sparkling gems scattered on a piece of silk, but were more deplorable than endearing. I wondered where did they come from and where are they heading to.

Jerry Li Xie is on a mission to incorporate true multi-cultural curricula into the BC education system, including ‘counter-racism’ and the removal of all systemic racism inherent in, for example, history and social studies. He recently met with MLA Ida Chong, and is in the process of launching a letter-writing campaign. You can write to Jerry at snoopyfan_0503@hotmail.com or check his website: www.geocities.com/jerrylixie.



Thoughts on War

From Andre Mollon amollon2000@yahoo.ca

Both the Hezbollah and Isreal are quick to claim Victoria in the war they just had, but I feel they are both wrong. It is illogical for politicians or media to bicker over who won, it is more like who was the biggest losers.

Hezbollah victory claim is nonsense because they brought billions of dollars of damage to their country. Isreal lost 100 soldiers all for what? Trying to get just 2 back, whom they didn’t even get. Well the addage that sometimes the first reaction isn’t the best rings true! Of course Isreal has to defend herself, as they had many of their homes destroyed by those dam Kytusha rockets. However, they also had their reputation damaged in world opinion dropping cluster bombs on civilian population and destroying the peacekeeper outpost. How much did they squander on the war that achieved nothing? It cost a lot of money to drive a tank and even more to fly just one combat jet even for an hour. There are no winners in war save maybe the business man that gets rich selling the weapons; everything gets destroyed. Last, but not least unless the UN peacekeepers get a mandate to destroy any remaining rockets there is no point in them being there.

Views From The Street

Everyday I stand or I sit with Street Newz in my hands vending it for donations. The Customer/Consumer usually understands what it is, panhandling of a different kind; donations for the continued literary efforts of our local writers. Writing this letter to you the customer/consumer I wanted you to see what I see.

Young lovers holding hands, kissing in public; seniors holding hands and exchanging a little peck when they think no one is looking. Today in particular the flowers are the main attraction, the price is right, the colours are bright but most importantly they smell just right.

The fashions are staggering from cutoffs to 500 dollar Gucci shoes and sunglasses. Flowing flowery materials from all over the world; the truth is customer/consumer I window shop you every day. I don't use a camera I use my eyes and you make me smile; You make me aware of the life that surrounds me everyday; you make me laugh, your children are fabulous with their giggling and their laughter and their smiles.

I have made quite a few friends who have chosen to share with me your laughter and sometimes your pain. I like what I do in my outdoor office and I thank you !

Debbie

Dear Readers ... Red Again

Remember what I write is what I see, nobody tells me, so what I see I see day in day out. So believe me this is real.

This letter is for all the people that have made my life worth living, and because of your goodness I'm still here. I really don't know where to start, because if it wasn't for your help I would be history. So this is my way of saying THANKS.

I don't use names or places but when you read this, you will know and understand what I'm talking about. Even though it may sound wierd, it is the truth from what I have witnessed.

I know that some of the people I meet are just like you and me. But also they have their own stories to tell. For me, it's a daily trial because I am one of a kind.

I meet a lot of different people who don't really understand who I really am. I try my best to be the person thast I am. I may live off and on the streets but I do have principles for what I do. You may look at me as an outcast but I try my best.

Now, here is the real reason that I'm talking about YOU ! I have many people to thank but I cannot remember most of their names but I am good at remembering faces. So once again I thank you all.

Yours truly,
Red



David, shortly after serving 36 days in prison, and refusing food for the duration.

St. Ann's update

by David Arthur Johnston

It has been a very whirlwindish last couple of weeks. Media from all over have been getting my story and the run down on the upcoming charter challenge. Links to some of these stories can be found at www.loveandfearlessness.com/new.html. The video can be found at- www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZ-etBmD1MY (you will need a 'flash' viewer).

The video has also been put on my home page. A couple of newspapers from where I grew up in central Alberta printed stuff as well- www.lacombeglobe.com/story.php?id=252395 and if you search 'Johnston' on the Red Deer Advocate website - www.reddeeradvocate.com/.

The day after we got the front page of the Globe and Mail, we got the editorial and the cartoon (fat cops busting in the door to the senate where there are a bunch of fat senators sleeping- under the caption 'Should municipalities have the right to make it illegal to sleep in public?').

Come October 16th, I'm pretty sure I'm not going to be going back to jail, though we'll see.

The Charter Challenge is scheduled for a nine day trial starting September 4th, 2007. Determining the 'right to sleep' is the front line in the realization of freedom on planet Earth. We stepped so far away from nature that the suggestion that we are just crazy monkeys is wanted to be seen as blasphemous. Food grows on trees and more jobs and money circulating just means we will destroy the planet that much faster. There can never be a 'green economy' that will help us step out of the hole that we have dug for ourselves. The only question now will be "what will happen first- a shift in the social order where tent-cities become normal or train cars taking bums, hippies and street punks to live lives of 'dignity' in re-education/work camps?"

Essentially, the mandate of the crown is to avoid anarchy at all costs, even justice. If giving a ruling on the legality of sleeping in public access spaces (as there is no such thing as 'public property') means people will no longer have the option of calling the police when they find an unshaven man sleeping peacefully under a tree in a park the courts will be instructed to do everything but give that ruling. They do have an ultimate failing though. If the people they wake and harass are mindful and patient enough there is no frontier justice maneuvering that can sway them- they only get inspired to dedicate their lives to not letting a tyrant get away with their crime... and that is exactly what the crown

Excerpts from a talk given at St. John the Divine

by Police Inspector John Ducker

I am here this morning to enlist your help in a growing local problem, This problem has been categorized by many people, who are a whole lot smarter than I am, as being a national disaster. This of course is the issue of homelessness. And while this is not exclusively a policing issue, the current levels of homelessness in Victoria are hitting us dead on such as I have never seen before, Our hostels and shelters are 100% full. The side-effect of this is, that depending on the day, we are seeing 30-60 people sleeping on our streets every night.

As a city we are by no means alone on this issue. Nationally the shelter occupancy rate runs between 95 to 97 per cent. In Hamilton, the number of people using shelters has increased 26 per cent. In Montreal, 12,600 people use shelters - one quarter of them women. In Windsor, the salvation army shelters are also filled beyond capacity. Toronto has 26,000 homeless people a year, 5,300 of them children. Shelter use increased 61% in Calgary and most are working over capacity. It is a debilitating social problem.

Homelessness cheapens and demeans our cities. It is a national embarrassment. Senior governments have downloaded all responsibility to our municipalities and we are seeing the results of this on our streets more and more every day. Indeed many of the social problems we face on our streets today are a result of massive funding priority shifts undertaken by senior governments in the 1990s, and they continue to turn a blind eye to these unfortunate people.

No matter where the causes of homelessness may lie, is it right that people be left to deteriorate physically, emotionally, and spiritually, and sometimes even die on our streets just because they have no fixed address?

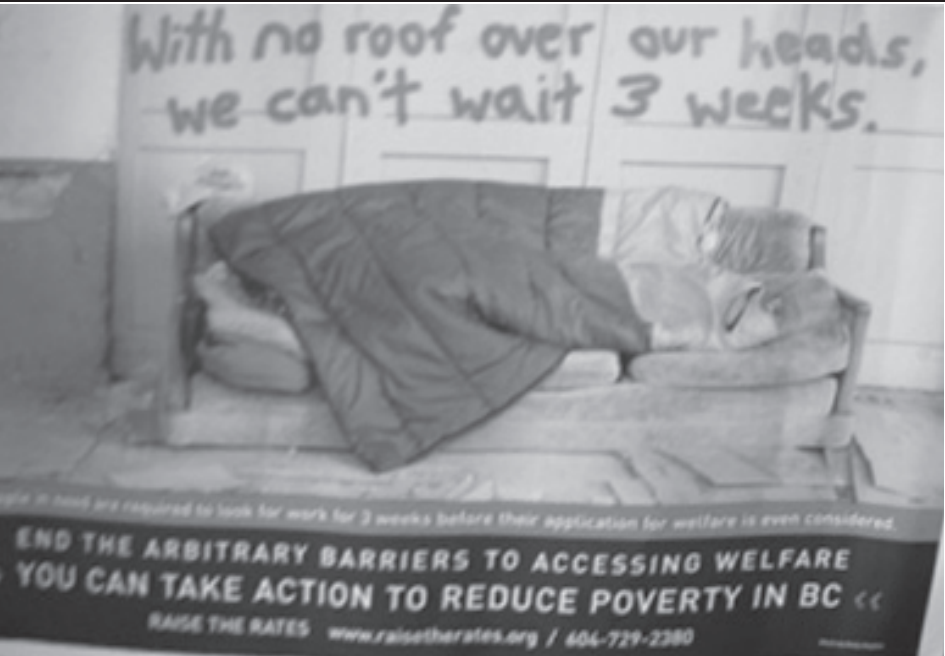
We cannot wait for any more studies, think tanks and committee reports. The downtown homeless situation is the worst it has been in my 27 year career. It is affecting the health and vibrancy of our downtown core. It is affecting the perception of safety our citizens have about our community. It is becoming an increasing and taxing drain on police resources which should be doing so many other things.

Canada is made up of generous, genuine and caring people. I believe they want to help the homeless. But the debate inevitably turns into an insidious and cyclical quagmire of: "someone else is responsible," "they should all go and get jobs," "they're all a bunch of winos," "they're all mentally ill," "why don't the police or the government do something?" And of course there is the ever popular "not in my backyard." This process always leads to stereotyping - the path to hatred. Once we are in the destructive grip of hatred, it becomes virtually impossible to move forward.

There are around 30-60 highly visible homeless people continually coming to the attention of the police department every week. Last week this group alone generated around twenty calls for public service - simply because they are occupying doorways and other spaces. In a year that would amount to 1040 police service calls for this one small group of people alone. The problem is that there seem to be no options open to these particular people right now. Even if it were on a temporary basis, moving these people off the street and providing them a temporary hand up (not a hand out) would help our community tremendously. Short term solutions can create other forms of momentum and bring attention to the issue. A temporary shelter provided here could give us some breathing room to continue to work with the city and with senior governments in creating better and more permanent solutions.

In the longer term, I strongly believe that other municipalities must share in this burden. I believe in a wide dispersion of small residential shelter providers that diffuse the homeless population throughout communities rather than marginalizing them into urban barrios. To this point the regional response to the issue is frankly pathetic.

Today in this house of the Lord I ask you to consider what God said in Isaiah: "Is not this the fast that I choose ... to share your bread with the hungry, when you see the naked cover them, and bring the homeless poor into your house."



is, a real live monster tyrant.

Have no doubt that the democratic process has been a mafia-like scam since day one. Canada is ruled by Queen Elizabeth and her representatives. The heads of the provinces are called 'Lieutenant Governors' and the only reason the masses are under the illusion that they are only figureheads is that they are happy with the way the people are governed and see no reason to utilize their veto power.

There is so much going on. I've been focusing on the 'be here now' and I'm finding that everything else just falls into place effortlessly.

love you all

patience be with us.

Left Coast Happenings

Street Newz offers no guarantee that this info is accurate, or that the events will actually occur. Free weekly list: events@pej.ca or relativenewz.ca

Mondays
Alt Mondays
Alt. Mondays
Mondays
Tuesdays
Tuesdays
Tuesdays
2nd Tuesdays
Wednesdays
Wednesdays
Wednesdays
Wednesdays
Thursdays
Thurs (to Dec)
2nd Thursdays
Fridays
Fourth Fridays
Last Fridays
Sat Mornings
Saturdays
Saturdays
Sat & Sun
Alt. Sundays
Sundays
Monthly
Monthly
All month
Ongoing
Ongoing

to Oct 13th
to Oct 15th
Wed Sept 27th
Wed Sept 27th
Fri Sept 29th
Sept 29 & 30th
Sat Sept 30th
Sat Sept 30th
Sat Sept 30th
Sat Sept 30th
Sat Sept 30th
Sat Sept 30th
Sept 30 & Oct 1st
Sept 30 & Oct 1st
Sun Oct 1st
Sun Oct 1st
Sun Oct 1st
Oct 1-8th
Tues Oct 3rd
Oct 9-11th
Mon Oct 11th
Oct 13-Nov 4th
Oct 15-16th
Sat Oct 16th
Sun Oct 17th
Mon Oct 18th
Tues Oct 19th
Tues Oct 19th
Oct 19-31st
Fri Oct 20th
Fri Oct 20th
Oct 20-22nd
Oct 20-22nd
Oct 22-28th
Oct 26-28th
Fri Oct 27th
Oct 27-30th
Sat Oct 28th
Nov 3-5th
Nov 8-10th
Nov 10-13th
Nov 10-18th
Dec 1-5th
Jan 28-31, 07
April 12-16th
April 18-21st

Movie Monday - 6:30 pm, Eric Martin Pavilion (1900 block Fort St.) by donation 595-FLIC or www.islandnet.com/mm
Victoria Peace Coalition - 7:30 pm, 2994 Douglas St. dolcla@islandnet.com
Communities Solidarity Coalition - www.communities-solidarity.org, info@communities-solidarity.org
Jazz Monday Jam at Mole 7-9 pm 554 Pandora
Voice of Palestine - 8:00-9:00pm (PST) on 102.7FM. Listen live at <http://www.coopradio.org/listen/> or to archives in Audio Clips.
Victoria Bluegrass Association Jams 1620 Fernwood, Orange Hall, 7:30 pm 472-6483 free for listeners, \$2 for players - all levels
Hand Drumming Drop-in, \$10. Beg: 7-8 pm, Adv: 8:15-9:15 pm 521 Superior Info 386-1054 Drums provided.
Green Drinks - Queen Mother Waterside Cafe, 407 Swift Street 5-7 pm. Info: www.qmwaterside.ca or www.greendrinks.org
Falun Gong faluninfo.net. Fernwood Community Centre, 1240 Gladstone Fernwood. Victoria. 5-7 p.m. Info: (250)386-8805 free
Peace Vigils at the Legislature - 7:00 - 8:00 pm - Peace Ambassadors needed to greet international visitors! Imagine: War Never Again
Recreational Drum Circle -starts Oct 11, 7pm, Dwntwn Community Act Ctr, 755 Pandora Free, Drums provided. No exp nec. Donna 383-0076
SOLID (Society of Living Intravenous Drugusers) except welfare day, 7:00-9:00 pm, 1947 Cook St. \$3 bus fare reimbursed
UVic Sustainability Project potluck meetings (local & organic) Harry Hickman Rm 116 Info: 250-721-7355 or <http://uvsp.uvic.ca>
EYE-OPENER FILMS - Heritage Hall of Duncan United Church, 246 Ingram St., Duncan. Info: <http://www.coalitioneyeopener.blogspot.com>
Council of Canadians Coffee Nights at the Solstice Café, 529 Pandora, 7-9 pm
Coffeehouse discussion group 7:30 pm JJ's coffeehouse in Brentwood Bay 7:30 pm Info: sue_stroud@hotmail.com
Café Simpatico, Activist coffeehouse,1923 Fernwood. Doors at 7 pm. casc@telus.net , 598-7690, communitypipe.org
Propel Yourself! Victoria Critical Mass Bike Rides - Centennial Square, 5 pm. bring bike, board, helmet, lights, bliss.
Sikh meditation -all welcome 6-7 am at Gurdwara Singh Sabha Society of Victoria (470 Cecelia Rd, Victoria, BC) Info: jindi@hotmail.com
Plastic Recycling -soft & hard plastics: styrofoam blocks & chips, plastic bags, and rigid plastics. Info: 382-4604. www.pacificmobiledepots.com
Tour of Merve Wilkinson's Wildwood Forest, Ladysmith. Info: Jay, 250-245-5540 Directions: www.ecoforestry.ca/WildwoodMap.htm
Falun Gong faluninfo.net 10-noon, Beacon Hill Pk, across from petting zoo, all winter. 386-8805 free
Sierra Club Nature Outings - Call Nikko for more details at 386-5255 x241, www.sierraclub.ca/bc
Victoria Folk Music Society 7:30pm, Norway House, 1110 Hillside www.pacificcoast.net/~vfms or 413-3213, 24 hrs.
Faith in Action -a multi-faith coalition working to put more heart into BC's income assistance. www.bcfaithinaction.ca
Vancouver Island Vegetarian Associaton (VIVA) Potlucks www.islandveg.com
CRD Parks outings and explorations for all ages. 478-3344 www.crd.bc.ca/parks/brochure2.htm
Auditions for Spilt Milk Improv Comedy Troupe Info: (250) 479-3374, spiltmilk@centralmail.com, www.spiltmilkcomedy.com
High Tide Concerts - Barney Bentall, FRUIT, Burry Sainte-Marie, various Tribute Bands Info: www.hightideconcerts.net

West Coast Landscapes at the Maltwood - McPherson Library Info: maltpub@maltwood.uvic.ca or (250) 721-6673
Belfry media Release - I Am My Own Wife Tickets: \$21 - \$36 (plus student pricing) Info: 250-385-6815 or pr@belfry.bc.ca
SpiritFest - celebrating spiritual diversity UVic SUB, Michele Pujol Rm, noon – 6pm Info: <http://web.uvic.ca/interfaith/thisweek.html>
The Case for Expanding Medicare: Health Forum - Vancouver 7.30 pm, Public Library, 350 West Georgia Information 604-263-1005
World Federalists Monthly Public Meeting 1:30 - 3:30 PM St. John the Divine Anglican Church, 1611 Quadra.
Together for Quality - Mentorship Fosters Ability; transcending barriers of class and poverty through the arts 1923 Fernwood
Women's Guaranteed Livable Income Proj - Wrap-up mtg & celebration 11am-2pm 755 Pandora-Dwntwn Act Ctr www.pacificcoast.net/~swag
Van Isle Veg Assoc (VIVA) Potluck & swimming! \$2 + vegan dish 6-10 pm Esq Rec Ctr, 527 Fraser Info: <http://islandveg.com/viva/node/15>
Open Door/Our Place Choir sings in Centennial Square 1:45-2:15 pm
Fair Vote Canada - Victoria Chapter's AGM w/ Harry Neufeld, BC's Chief Electoral Officer 1 pm, UVic HSD A240 Info: 384-0666
Building a Hoop Bin for Yard Waste Storage 2-4pm Compost Ed Centre, 1216 North Park St. Info: 386-WORM or www.compost.bc.ca
Re-Imagining Restoration: Seminar and AGM - Society for Ecological Restoration, BC Chapter UVic Harry Hickman Info: 250-721-6125
Taste of Health Vegetarian Food Festival - Vancouver Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Dr (at 16th) Info: www.earthsave.bc.ca
Intro to Compassionate Communication - Vancouver Reserve space-604 321 2077 Info: www.bcncc.org, <http://www.cnvc.org>
The Salt Spring Island (BC) Apple Festival 2006 - A Celebration of the Diversity of Apples - 9-5 Info: www.saltspringmarket.com/apples
HAITI TO AFGHANISTAN:Canada's Aggressive Foreign Policy, 21st Century 2 pm Merc Theatre, 331 Brae Rd, Duncan
Salt Spring Isle Apple Festival -Celebrating the Diversity of Apples 9 - 5 pm \$10, students & kids free Info:www.saltspringmarket.com/apples
KEEP SPACE FOR PEACE WEEK - International Week of Protest to Stop the Militarization of Space Info: <http://www.space4peace.org>
Certificate Course in Ecological Landscape Design Classes Tues & Sat mornings for 9 weeks. Info: www.gaiacollege.ca/design or 382-4450.
Bridging Borders Toward Food Security Vancouver Info: www.bridgingbordersconference.org
Salmon Farming on BC's Coast-Make it Safe and Sound-Campbell Riv Info:www.georgiastrait.org/Articles2006/CAAR-GSA-SCSA-InfoKit.pdf
William Head On Stage presents Shakespeare's "Macbeth" @ Wm Head Prison Info:391-7016 (leave msg if no answer - it's a prison line)
Millennium Campaign - Stand Up Against Poverty - www.millenniumcampaign.org
Prov Budget Committee hearings - priorities? Info: 1-877-428-8337 or www.legis.gov.bc.ca/cmt/38thparl/session-2/fgs/5-38-2-4-4.asp
Salmon Farming on BC's Coast-Make it Safe and Sound-Sechelt Info: <http://www.georgiastrait.org/Articles2006/CAAR-GSA-SCSA-InfoKit.pdf>
Salmon Farming on BC's Coast-Make it Safe and Sound- Van Info: <http://www.georgiastrait.org/Articles2006/CAAR-GSA-SCSA-InfoKit.pdf>
Enterprising non profits orientation - New Westminster Info: www.enterprisingnonprofits.ca or www.coastalcommunitynetwork.ca
Salmon Farming on BC's Coast-Make it Safe and Sound- Vic Info: <http://www.georgiastrait.org/Articles2006/CAAR-GSA-SCSA-InfoKit.pdf>
Giggling Iguana prod: "I Might Be Edgar Allan Poe" Info: 592-5323,www.thecastle.ca www.members.shaw.ca/gigglingiguanaprods
Rally and march to demand that Canadian troops be removed from Afghanistan - Vancouver & Victoria
Pro Bono Law of BC's Free Non-Profit Law Seminars - Vancouver - Info: 604-893-8932 or info@probononet.bc.ca or www.probononet.bc.ca
Community 2 Community Conference - Salt Spring Island - Info: www.solidaltspring.com/C2C2.html or 250-537-0863
Family Focus 2006 - Richmond. Info: www.familyfocusconference.com, info@familyfocusconference.com, 604-279-7057
Aboriginal Media Intensive Program for Youth & Adults - Gulf Islands Film & Television School 1-800-813-9993 or www.GIFTSfilms.com
Marketing Training for Hippies - Van For green, holistic, & community-minded entrepreneurs www.tadhargrave.com/RBI, tad@tadhargrave.com
Pro Bono Law of BC's Free Non-Profit Law Seminars - Victoria - Info: 604-893-8932 or info@probononet.bc.ca or www.probononet.bc.ca
Victoria International Arts Symposium - Artists of Conscience Info: www.victoriaartssymposium.com or 386-6121
Canada Out of Afghanistan Rally & Walk - Bring Our Troops Home - Alive - Now. Info: www.acp-cpa.ca; www.echecalaguerra.org
OUR WATER - OUR FUTURE Water Conference - Qualicum Beach Info: www.waterinthecityvictoria.ca
Starting with Women's Lives: Changing Today's Economy (Conference) - Vancouver Info: www.atira.bc.ca/wei/
Reconnecting to Life 5th Annual Residential Retreat - Cheakamus River, north of Squamish Info: glorious@portal.ca or 604-857-1400
33rd Northwest Film & Video Festival Info: <http://www.nwfilm.org>
Life Force Summit - Palm Springs, California For those dedicated to creating positive change. Info: www.life-force-summit.com
2nd Ntl Cdn Conf on Social Enterprise, Vancouver. Building Social Enterprise. Reg. begins Sept 5th. Info: www.enterprisingnonprofits.ca
Ashland Independent Film Festival Info: web:http://www.ashlandfilm.org
2007 NATIONAL CED CONFERENCE - St. John's Nfld. Info: http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/en/pages/conference_07.asp

Food Resources

9-10 CLUB (ST. ANDREW’S SOUP KITCHEN)
740 View St. Victoria, B.C. V8W 1J8 ph: 388-5571 8 - 10am seven days a week. Church-run club providing daily meals on a drop-in basis.

ANAWIM COMPANION SOCIETY
973 Caledonia Street Victoria B.C. V8T 1E7 phone: 382-0283
Mon, Tues, Thurs 10am - 5 pm, Weds, Fri 10am8pm, Sat 10am 4pm
Laundry, showers, meals, clothing, limited housing spaces.

COMMUNITY FOOD BANK
4-697 Goldstream Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V9B 2X2 phone: 474-4443
Tues, Weds: 10am 3pm, Closed last week of month

FOOD NOT BOMBS - a collectively run food kitchen. Ph: 383-5144, ext 1940
Free vegetarian serving Sundays, 3 pm - Harris Green (Pandora & Vancouver)
Bring plastic containers for bowls, bags 4 produce. http://resist.ca/~fnb-victoria

FRUIT AND VEGGIE BOX
C/o Blanshard Community Centre phone: 388-7696
James Bay Community Project phone: 388-7844
WorkLink Employment Society phone: 478-9525
Victoria Native Friendship Centre phone: 384-3211
Wholesale prices, various size boxes. Pay first, pick up following wk.

JAMES BAY COMMUNITY SCHOOL
140 Oswego Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 2B1 phone: 389-1470
-Seniors Dinners on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 PM - \$5.75
-Community Dinners Weds, approx. every other mth, usually \$4 & \$2 -12 & under. Tickets must be purchased at the centre in advance-Community school cafe open Mon - Fri 11:45 am -12:30 pm. \$3.25 & child 2.75.

MEALS ON WHEELS phone: 479-6900
For residents of Greater Victoria who, because of age, disability or illness, are unable to prepare an adequate meal for themselves, have inadequate cooking facilities, have no one to prepare meals, or have health and social needs. Referrals from doctors, health & Social Services agencies, concerned friends, family, or personal requests. Current cost of meals- \$6.75. In addition to nutritional benefits, some social interaction.

MUSTARD SEED STREET CHURCH www.mustardseed.ca
625 Queens Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V8T 1L9 phone: 953-1575
Outreach: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm, Food bank: M,T, W, Th 9-11:45am, 12:30-2:00 pm
M, W, F - Family Hampers, Th - Singles & Couples w/out children. Food bank is closed the week following welfare cheque day. Drop in for food, friendship, counseling, and crisis intervention. Food hampers available. One visit/mth.

OUR PLACE (formerly the Open Door)
713 Johnson St., Victoria, BC V8W 1M8 phone: 385-2454
7am - 3 pm Monday to Friday, closed weekends
Victoria’s ‘Living Room’ - a drop in centre with free sandwiches, doughnuts, coffee, tea, bread, sometimes produce, clothing room, counseling & referrals. Free pet clinic the first Monday of each month.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
828 View Street, Victoria B.C. V8W 1K2 phone: 382-0712
9 am-12:30 pm, 1:30 pm-4:30 pm Mon-Friday, Tues aft for Women
Must be 19 yrs, unless referred by parents, ASK, or Soc Services. Food, clothing, household items. Home visits, food vouchers for parents w/children.

SAINT SAVIOUR’S KITCHEN
310 Henry Street, Church Hall (VicWest) phone: 384-8773
Rainbow Kitchen for women and children, Weds and Fris, 12 noon 1:30 pm

SALVATION ARMY, Family Services and Counselling (singles, too)
2695 Quadra, at Hillside ph: 386-8521 Monday Friday, 9 am 3:30 pm
Emergency food hampers, clothing & small housewares vouchers.

SIKH TEMPLE
Blackwood at Topaz (towards summit park), enter right side door
Every Sunday at noon - Free food serving, lentil dahl and chapatis, etc.

STREETLINK EMERGENCY SHELTER
1634 Store St., Victoria, B.C. V8W 1S2 ph: 384-3634, office 383-1951
Free dinner 7 days a week, 3 pm for meal ticket, serving at 3:30

ST. JOHN THE DIVINE
1611 Quadra St., Victoria, B.C., V8W 2L5 phone: 383 7169
Food bank open Tues & Fridays, 10 am-noon, in church basement. (Closed Fri and Tuesday after Welfare Wednesday, and Tuesdays after Monday stat.)

UPPER ROOM SOCIETY
919 Pandora Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V8V 3P4 phone: 388-7112
Office Hrs: Mon-Fri 9am-4pm Meals: Mon-Sat 12-1pm, 45:30 pm
Meal pass costs \$26 a month, or \$1 at the door.

Good Food Box Program - Duncan area - 250-746-4204,
www.providence.bc.ca, mlthomson@uniserve.com

Breakfast Club

First Saturday: Christ Church Cathedral at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church Hall - 680 Courtney St., 7:45-9:30 am

Second Saturday: St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Hall, 680 Courtney St, 8-10 am

Third Saturday: Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church Hall, 1800 Quadra St. 8-10

Fourth Saturday: Central Baptist Church, 833 Pandora, 8-10 am; 385-7786

Fifth Saturday: BC Ferry Workers’ Union at St. Andrew’s Hall, 8-10 am

DAY WORKERS FOR HIRE

We provide dependable labour for the odd jobs that arise in your home, office, or business. All wages go directly to the workers.

101-749 Pandora, 388-9296

Housing Resources

No Cost for Service, Time Limited Stay

Salvation Army (Emerg men only) 525 Johnson Street, 384-3396

Streetlink 1634 Store Street, 383-1951

Sandy Merriman House (for women) 809 Burdett Avenue, 480-1408

Sobering & Assessment Ctr (24 hr) 1125 Pembroke (@ Cook) 213-4444

Out of the Rain (Youth 15-25) 812-0490 winter only, various locations

Kiwanis Youth Shelter (13-18) 2117 Vancouver St., 386-8282

Hill House - Women with children 479-3963

Sooke Transition House 642-2591 Women with or without children

Vic. Women’s Transition House 385-6611 Women with or w/out kids

Cridge Centre for the Family 1190 Kings Rd 386-7291 Women & kids

Kiwanis House for single women 16-29 w/ one child 382-1004

Margaret Laurence House 995-0058 Women & kids escaping abuse

Low Cost Monthly Rentals

YWCA Women’s Residence - 880 Courtney Street, 386-7511

Ritz Hotel - 710 Fort Street, 381-1868

Fairfield Hotel - 710 Cormorant St., 386-1621

York Hotel - 711 Johnson Street, 385-2544

Douglas Hotel - 1450 Douglas Street, 383-4157

Ocean Island Backpackers - 791 Pandora Avenue 385-1788

Turtle Refuge Backpackers - 1608 Quadra Street 386-4471

Vic. Human Exchange Soc. 361- 2762, 1-800-691-9366, www.humanx.org

Extreme Outreach - men only, \$350 + dep. No alcohol or drugs. 708-2064

Subsidized and/or Supported Housing Services

BC Housing (subsidized - low income families, 55+, or w/disabilities)
301- 3440 Douglas Street, 475-7550 www.bchousing.org

Burnside Gorge Community Assoc. 388-5251 members.shaw.ca/bgca

Capital. Region Housing (subsidized, low income families, 55+, disabilities)
623 Fisgard, 388-6422 www.crd.bc.ca/housing

Coordinated Housing Registry (subsidized & supported housing)
www.coolaid.org 826 Cormorant St. 356-2548

M’Akola Housing Society 384-1423

Pacifica Housing Advisory Assoc. (families) 827 Fisgard 385-2131

Pacifica Housing Serv/Downtown Outreach Serv (connects low-income folk w/ housing in private sector) 826 Cormorant 356-2555

Pandora Youth Apts 753 Pandora, For 15-19 yrs, Andrea - 380-2663

St. Vincent de Paul Soc. 382-2767 www.svdpvictoria.com/services/

Victoria Senior Citizen Housing Society #501-620 View, 384-3434

Housing Searches on the Internet

BC Housing Subsidized Housing List www.bchousing.org

Brown Bros. Property Management www.brownbros.com

BC Co-Operative Housing www.chf.bc.ca/

Camosun Off Campus Housing List http://www.myidealhome.com/ccss

David Burr Property Management www.davidburr.com

UVic Off Campus Housing www.housing.uvic.ca/offcampus/search.htm

Helpful Housing Hints

- 1. Add your name to the BC Housing list.
- 2. Add your name to the Coordinated Housing Registry.
- 3. Get the addresses & phone numbers of subsidized or supported housing units from the Cool Aid Society, the BGCA, M’Akola, etc. If you find one you like, make friends, impress them, ask them to pull your name off the list. They can let you in, but you have to be listed with BC Housing first.

Some places to call for help

Action Committee of People with Disabilites - 926 View St., 383-4105

Adult Addiction Comm. Treatment Serv: 2nd floor, 1250 Quadra, 727-3544

AIDS Vancouver Island: 1601 Blanshard St., 384-2366

Alano Club: 1402 Broad St, 383-9151

Alcoholics Anon: #8, 2020 Douglas, 383-7744 (help), 383-0415 (off)

Cool-Aid Medical Clinic: 385-1466

Cool-Aid Phone Message Service (\$5/mth): 383-1977

Credit Counselling - 477-9998

Foundation of Support of Recovery for Men: 480-1342

Men’s Trauma Centre: 381-6367, #203-1420 Quadra St. www.menstrauma.ca

Outreach Services Methadone Clinic: 2004 Fernwood Rd., 480-1232

Problem Gambling Help Line - 1-888-795-6111

Prostitute Empowerment & Education (PEERS): 744 Fairview Rd., 388-5325

Research, Education, Evaluation, & Support Prog. (REES): 595-8619

Salvation Army Addictions & Rehab Centre: 525 Johnson, 384-3396

Society of Living Intravenous Drugusers (SOLID): 7-9 pm Weds, 1947 Cook

Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS): #415 - 620 View Street 361-3521

Victoria Native Friendship Centre: 610 Johnson Street, 384-3211

Victoria Sobering & Assessment Centre: 1125 Pembroke, 213-4444

Vancouver Island Addiction Recovery Soc.: 536 Cecelia, 480-1342

Blood for Oil:
The neo-fascists dance with the devil

by George Simich

As we mourn the loss of four more Canadians killed by the Taliban and one Canadian killed and several wounded by the Americans in Afghanistan (Americans will kill anybody), should it surprise us that not one of them is named Harper, Clement, MacKay, or Day, or that not one of the dead is even related to our flag-waving neo-Conservative members of Parliament? Similarly, not one of the American dead is named Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, or Rove, or even related to the neo-cons and neo-fascists, who drape themselves in the flag, while flag-draped coffins carry our children home.

If the cause that our countries are fighting for is so just, as the neo-cons fervently assert, why are the children of our government leaders, right-wing think tank gurus, and corporate executives not dying in the deserts of the Middle East? Because now as always the children of the lower middle class, the working class, and the poor must die to protect the vested interests of the rich.

Our blood for their oil.

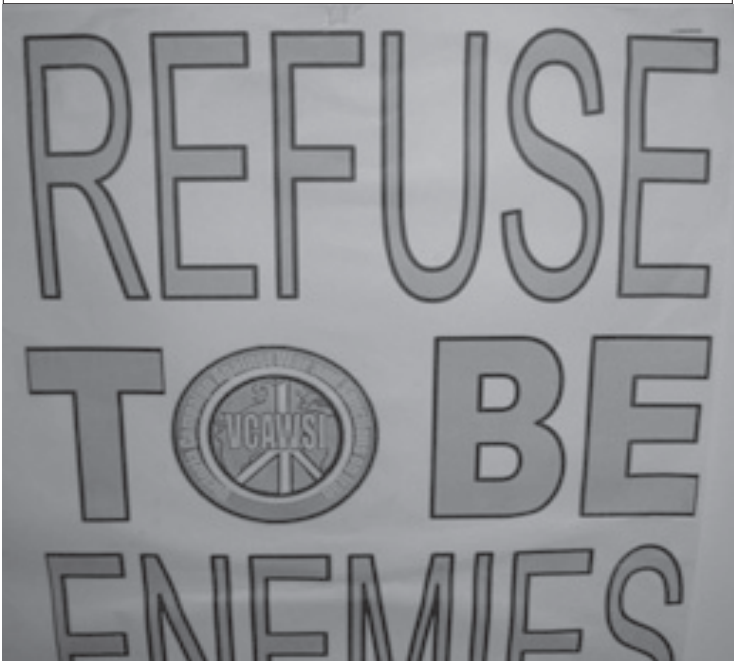
And by their oil, I am not referring to the countries of the Middle East who own this oil, but to Haliburton, Standard Oil, Texaco, and other American oil corporations that believe it merely a nuisance that these vast petroleum reserves are located in such contrary countries. However, exporting democracy to infidels has proved a boon for these oil companies and arms producers, as they provide the petroleum products necessary to keep that great American war machine moving over the bodies of this bother; and we pay for this privilege at the pump by the death of our children to protect their interests. The intent is not, nor has it ever been, to export democracy to this region, but to stabilize this region so that the flow of oil is regulated and regular.

Neo-cons find the idea of democracy to be disgusting, believing that the free flow of goods (especially military equipment), capital, and oil are the only legitimate concerns for government. Conversely, the neo-cons preach that labour must be dirt cheap and tightly regulated, which is why they refuse to introduce minimum wage laws in the US, and bust unions at every opportunity in Canada, the United States, and other industrialized, free-market countries; and why neo-fascists hire illegal aliens as domestics, but decline to introduce guaranteed incomes.

But the above is not news to anyone who pays attention and cares about what is happening in this world. Millions of people demonstrated against the war in Iraq, knowing that what is currently happening in that country was going to occur. Millions of people signed petitions and wrote to the UN Security Council, the General Assembly, and the leaders of all NATO partners, pleading with them to refuse to join in this US led madness. Unfortunately, and as usual, billions of people did nothing; (by the way, how are those laptops, cell phones, and Blackberrys working for you? All that communication and information, yet you remain uninformed and uninvolved—funny how that works).

It is understandable how the US government can fool the American people; they are a particularly obtuse country, but the rest of the world is or should be much smarter than America. In Canada, the people that support this US aggression also champion the Neo-Conservative Party and thump their Bibles—the Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, George Bush, and Stephen Harper mob of morons (the black is white crowd). And by the way, Mr. Harper and Mr. Bush, intelligent and informed Canadians and Americans can hold you in utter contempt and condemn your foreign policies, yet still support our troops—the former has nothing to do with the latter, except in your twisted rationale, which plays only to the unthinking, in-breeding, gun toting literalists that support you. These wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are nothing more than religious fascists on both sides doing their little dance with the devil.

Blood for oil; amen to that.



The EMINEM Generation

Submitted by Bob Le Blanc - bigusfigus69@hotmail.com

I am writing this letter in response to some rather difficult stories that have been playing on the news lately. Enough is enough. I can't keep quiet any more!

Personally, I am shocked about the story of the wannabe gangsters who video taped their crime spree and drug use, then insulted the justice system, which was broadcast on Global News in Vancouver, BC, August 15, 2006.

But, I am not shocked for the reason that most people who seen the stories would be. I am shocked, that YOU GUYS (society in general) are shocked, and think this is something new.

Why won't you understand, or acknowledge, that the truth here is, the youth of today's day and age, are in a lot of trouble. They lack respect, vandalize our cities and towns which ruin efforts to create a positive image, and show little or no interest in a routine life. The EMINEM Generation is what I call them. I'm sitting back waiting for them to all turn twenty five, or thirty. Then what is going to happen?

These are the people who are supposed to be the future of our nation. Why is the system allowing this break down in character to happen? That's what I'd like to know? And seemingly, right before our eyes.

I am very concerned a GANGSTA REVOLUTION of punks with sideways hats, and baggy pants, who have meth labs in every second house in town, is what the current way of dealing with The War on Drugs is going to lead to. And soon!

This deterioration in behavior has spread all across North America. And you (society) have let it happen. You're too concerned with not disrupting the wife's trip to the salon, and the shoe store. Or what color the new corvettes come in next year, or how to get a house that's bigger than the one the Jones, built down the street, that you've lost track of what a true, and free, and responsible, society is all about. One day, not so long ago we all had a responsibility not only to ourselves, but to each other too.

Regretfully, because of the breakdown of this responsibility towards each other, society is going to be eaten alive, as they will become the fish food for the rapidly growing number of hungry piranhas which have already began to invade neighborhoods, lurking, on a mission for drug money.

And your cars, your homes, and your businesses are broken into or vandalized. I only hope that you have learned to stay out of the way, unless you are ready, and properly prepared for a fight, or otherwise violent encounter.

So? Just what do you think this Eminem generation has in mind when they are faced with the responsibility of having to step up and ensure Canada continues on the path we've been on for the last three hundred years or so over here on this side of the world?

I can guarantee one thing, they'll be corrupt. Not the kind of corrupt like we have come to know with examples like our recent Liberal government here in Canada and the numerous scams and scandals they pulled, like the sponsorship scandal. No! These guys, the Eminemers, they'll be truly corrupt.

Call me a pessimist if you will, but for some reason I don't think this new generation has hard work, and buckling down on their minds. A lot of them are in a mind frame where pimpin' da ho's and selling drugs seem like an easier, and more rewarding goal to set their sights on.

I mean come on, already they blatantly stand on the corner and sell \$5 dollar crack rocks to anyone, even your ten year old daughter. All anybody needs is the cash and a little bit of curiosity.

At the end of the day, the dealer who supplies all these kids on the corner with the dope they sell, gets to drive away in a Lincoln Navigator so Pimped Out the Chief of Police himself couldn't afford to own it.

Well! Guess what? Thanks to the Blind Eyes of society, we're in trouble. Real trouble. Believe me, I'm not lying, that part of our society, the drug sub-culture, is a mess, a huge mess, and CRYSTAL METH, has it ready to come apart at the seams.

As a community, as a society, and as people, we should all be outraged with what has happened to the mindset we have allowed to develop in these young people. Hopefully they don't figure out they can unite, and use unity as a weapon against the political system by getting a candidate of their mind set in there to run for Prime Minister.

I ask you; Is freedom so important we need to allow guys like this punk Marshall Mathers, or Eminem, or Satan, or whatever you wanna call him, to ruin and poison the future of the North American lifestyle?

Remember, this type of influence on your kids is turning them against parents. It's condoning promiscuous behavior, which promotes AIDS, and other diseases. And I'm sure you are really beginning to understand how it's stamping out any and all respect for any form of authority whatsoever. Not too mention the drugs.

I'd like someone to explain to me WHY it is so important for us to allow people like Eminem to act with reckless abandon in the name of freedom, regardless of the consequences?

To be perfectly honest, that home video made in Vancouver by those juvenile thugs which was on the news, was an honestly portrayed, very realistic, example of what the Eminem Generation is really all about. You know it as well as I do, they are in every single city, town, and village this country has.

Just because they don't all act on it YET, and commit the actual crimes, doesn't mean they aren't all pretending as if they want to.

Pretending. At least that's all it is, pretending. Until they get hooked on the crystal meth that is. Then its anybody's guess what'll happen. Home invasion, murder, bank robbery, or maybe deep psychosis that leads to an unexplained, unprovoked, random violent act of unthinkable magnitude only severe paranoia could induce. Like Columbine.

Wake up and smell the coffee ladies and gentlemen. It's not going to get better by pretending it isn't real, or that it's not your problem, or doesn't involve you. This is All of our problem. Every Single Last One Of US! If you are a part of society, then you are already on your way to becoming a victim of circumstance and having your life disrupted by crime one way or another. Even if it's just the fact that insurance rates are going through the roof because of auto theft and insurance fraud, we are ALL affected.

Until we admit the way we try to deal with this situation of escalating violence, increasing homelessness, and rampant drug abuse, is tantamount to a dog chasing his own tail, it will only keep getting worse. Einstein defined insanity as trying the same thing, over, and over, and over again, hoping for a different result each time in the end.

Aren't we smart enough as people to understand its going to take an entirely different method to solve this problem? How long are we going to let this go on without standing up to the people who are creating and applying this senseless method of trying to enforce these laws which are putting us all in danger, and certainly not protecting us?

When will we declare, with our authority as the citizens of this country, "Its been proven! This method will not work! Thirty years of failing is more than enough evidence. We are no further ahead, and now are falling behind, way behind. We no longer believe the current way, is the only way. We want something new BEFORE it all blows up in our faces!" Which it will. Which it is!

The EARTH CHARTER

Submitted by Gerry Masuda - gmasuda@telus.net

We urgently need a shared vision of basic values to provide an ethical foundation for the emerging world community. The Earth Charter could fulfill this need.

The Charter is a declaration of fundamental principles for building a just sustainable and peaceful global society. It is an inclusive ethical vision recognizing that environmental protection, human rights, equitable human development, and peace are interdependent and indivisible.

The charter has four major sections: Respect and Care for the Community of Life, Ecological Integrity, Social & Economic Justice and Democracy, Nonviolence & Peace.

Social and Economic Justice is especially relevant to readers of Street Newz. It is made up of four principles, numbers 9 to 12:

- 9. Eradicate poverty as an ethical, social, and environmental imperative.
- 10. Ensure the economic activities and institutions at all levels promote human development in an equitable and sustainable manner
- 11. Affirm gender equality and equity as prerequisites to sustainable development and ensure universal access to education, health care, and economic opportunity
- 12. Uphold the right of all, without discrimination, to a natural and social environment supportive of human dignity, bodily health, and spiritual well-being, with special attention to the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities.

If you can support these four principles, you probably could also support the other 12 principles. If you are bothered about how to interpret, evaluate and take action against what is happening in our world, the Earth Charter may be able to help you. View the complete Earth Charter at www.earthcharter.org/files/charter/charter.pdf.

Yoga in Tulum !!

Sacred Yoga Teachings on ancient Mayan land by the Caribbean Sea.

Join Dr. Deanna Geddo (a certified yoga teacher with international credentials) and friends for an exceptional week of yoga in a secluded jungle setting, surrounded by warm emerald waters.

Be inspired by Deanna's Signature Asanas method - based on the belief that each person has one or more yogic postures that are as unique and specific to the individual as a fingerprint or signature.

November 5-12th

\$2850 per person includes yoga teachings, return flight from Vancouver, accommodation in an individual cabin, 2 meals daily, unlimited purified water and herbal teas. (Profits will support humanitarian causes.)

Contact Dr. Deanna Geddo, 250-386-3303, dhyana@shaw.ca



wanna get published?

Do you have:

- A story you want to tell?
- A joke you want to tell?
- A picture you want to show?
- A cartoon you want draw?

Edmonton's OUR VOICE needs you to tell us about it so we can publish it. Contact us:

In person at the Bissell Centre East Building, North Entrance, 2nd Floor (office hours are Monday to Friday 9:00 AM till 12:00 AM).

Call or Fax us (780) 456-6052.

Email us: ourvoicenews@interbun.com

Snail mail us: OUR VOICE, Bissell Centre, 10527-96 Street, Edm AB T5H 2H6.

Please note that publication guidelines as to suitability will apply. Copies of these guidelines and payment rates are available at the OUR VOICE office.

(remember, too, that the due date for submissions to the Victoria Street Newz is the first friday of each month for the next month's issue. we try to compensate as best we can, to those in need, but mostly it's a labour of love - with faith that universal karmic energies protect and care for all who keep the street newz alive.)

The last grizzly, murdered by a trophy hunter (legitimately, thanks to the BC Liberals) waves goodbye to the last Spirit Bear (died from starvation, resulting from loss of habitat due to over-forestation, again thanks to BC Fibberals).



The Advocate

© W. Robert Arnold

Everyone knows and has known for many years that the welfare rates are too low to live on. A single person cannot pay rent and eat properly one \$510 per month, let alone buy clothing, toiletries and transportation necessary for looking for work. Now, it is official!



The National Council of Welfare has published a report this summer on welfare incomes for 2005. In this report there is a discussion of adequacy of welfare incomes, which starts out by calling welfare incomes "woefully inadequate in 2005." It goes on to say that they have been woefully inadequate every year since 1986, when the National Council of Welfare started tracking them. Remember, the National Council of Welfare is a federal government body sent up to advise the government on poverty matters. This is no fly-by-night organization.

One of the many charts contained in this report shows that single employable people on welfare in British Columbia get a total of \$6,456 per year, which is 31% of the poverty line. This means that a single employable person is getting less than one third of what Statistics Canada says one must receive to be at the poverty line.

Another chart shows that single employable persons in British Columbia are at 29% of the median income for single persons. The median income is that income where half of the earners are above it and half below. It is no wonder that the single employable person on welfare cannot afford housing and a healthy diet.

Yet another chart shows the total welfare incomes over time in 2005 constant dollars. Since 1996 in British Columbia welfare rates have been going down drastically. In 1994 single employable person in British Columbia received \$8,504 in today's money. Since then we have gone down to \$6,456, the lowest it has been since 1986.

What do all these numbers mean? It means people on income assistance today are poorer than people on income assistance 20 years ago. It means that the provincial government under the Liberals is even stingier than the Socred government, which was well known across the country for being mean to poor people. It means that poor people are more desperate, oppressed and in need than they used to be.

It is no wonder that we see more people in our streets today suffering from depression and other mental illnesses. It is no wonder that we see more people in our streets today suffering from substance abuse and drug addiction. It is no wonder that we see more vandalism, tagging and graffiti in our streets today. Poverty can make a person sick, hopeless, desperate and angry.

To create greater security in our streets, our homes and our society we must raise the welfare rates at least to the poverty line. Until this is done more conventions will be canceled by big out-of-town companies, greater numbers of people will be addicted to drugs and alcohol and more homeless people will show up in our streets.

Finally, the poverty line for a single employable person in a city the size of Victoria is close to \$20,000 per year; or roughly \$1670 per month. With this amount of money a single person may be able to live a decent healthy life, as guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to which Canada and British Columbia are signatories.

There is a crime in our country and our society called being poor. It is not been out of work that is the crime because if you have money and you're out of work it is just fine. The crime is being poor and the punishment is welfare.

Robert has been an advocate and anti-poverty activist since 1975. He is presently involved with the federated anti-poverty groups of BC and the National Anti-Poverty Organization. His mission is to eradicate poverty from the world. He might need a couple more lifetimes to complete it; but he will continue until it is finished. You can write to Robert at advocate64@hotmail.com.



physical graffiti

armpit baklava
and rose pricks everywhere
working mans blues pulling on my membranes
see, i've bruised these ribs before
so i know where this is going.
like a human landslide i slip
in the rain of wounds
come crashing down
in pieces
soon enough
the physical maladies take
a mental toll
and my fragile mind finds me
4 am dumpster diving, sleeping
out in the cold
reaching
into the nowhere glow of the phone
dipping in other peoples property
sucking concrete with
reckless abandon
can't stop, cause
the words will blow in
in droves
when i get back home
beg forgiveness
crawl outta the bottle
and come up for air.

"j fisher" <bathtubbing@hotmail.com>

She Wants The Sun
And The Sky



© Paul Burnside
On the way to the pond, by the big sequoia tree, Maldress Comehither gave a hint to her needs. She said what she liked. She said what she wanted. She looked off to the distance. Looked at me. Then stared at the sky.
"It's a hell those people want. Nothing more." The stomach gave a

lurch. I held my breath. I breathed out: "Sure."
"We could walk to the beach ..." she said "Hmmm."
"...get an ice-cream and sit a while."
"I think I have to go."
The leaves were already ready for autumn. Some had curled up. And some were listening, still green, just fresh on the ground. An old rotten tree was bristling with life. And a humming-bird hovered nearby.
We walked a bit further, saying little, but silence. Then we passed a bench and a fountain. The fountain was dry. The wind blew so lightly, and the yellow light shone, like a shared smile.
"One more time then!" she said
"One more time then."
And it seemed like both of us smiled.
She put her hand in the duck pond. Drew it up to her face. Winched from the coldness. Then pushed her whole head in. The light from the pond danced on her face.
"It's so damn strange. Isn't it?"
"No more strange than most," I said.
"We'll meet, but we won't plan it?"
"Or something like that."
The rock was warm and her legs held their shape in her lavender dress. She picked at her muffin, for something, for her fingers to do. I could see the small raisons, like grubs, in fresh earth.
"Have you read this then?" she said.
"I have. And I think it's pure shit."
And she smashed the pile of seashells with her fist.



Street Muzings

Mystery Woman at the Hostel

In this everyday life, it seems most people are just so image conscious, emulating and copying one another in a wanton fashion. Behaving like generic clones or drones with their cellphones exhibiting very little originality or real feeling. I guess as a result of the media and the mass commercialism in this society.
On my travels to this funky little establishment known as Ocean Island, one vibrant person leaves a memorable impression. She is known as the
Mystery Woman at the Hostel
In the dead quiet stillness of night, a lone enigmatic figure stirs, sitting at her desk working the books and the computer. A knock at the door brings a sudden leap and up goes the defenses.
Her soft penetrating eyes reach out to the would-be slithering intruder or trouble shooter. She's checked him out so there's no need to fret or twist and shout ... not yet.
A quick glance at this young woman, as statuesque as your big sister, brings an element of the mystery.
Her face, part renaissance, part bohemian, livens as her lilting voice and laughter reminds one of their caring mother or aunt. Who is this woman that works the books and gets the looks? Is she that tent city activist? Warrior for justice? Street Nun? Who likes to party and have fun. She's kind of hippy, not too dippy but a sharp chippy. This woman is wild and woolly, able to stand up to the meanest bully.
But she is still a mystery. Like a thief in the night and she breathes fire and might. Who is she? Why, when you listen to her voice like silk on leather and you see her glide like a feather ... you know ... she's Holistic, Happy High Flying Heather. But don't forget to slam your beer, grab your dear, and get out of here. Right, Heather?
From Mark Idczak



20 WAYS TO MAINTAIN A HEALTHY LEVEL OF INSANITY

- 1. Sit in a parked car with sunglasses on and point a hair dryer at passing cars. See if they slow down.
- 2. Page yourself over the intercom. Don't disguise your voice.
- 3. Every time someone asks you to do something, ask if they want fries with that.
- 4. Put your garbage can on your desk and label it "IN."
- 5. Put decaf in the coffee maker for 3 weeks. Once everyone has gotten over their caffeine addictions, switch to espresso.
- 6. In the memo field of all your checks, write "for smuggling diamonds."
- 7. Finish all your sentences with "in accordance with the prophecy."
- 8. Don't use any punctuation.
- 9. As often as possible, skip rather than walk.
- 10. Order a Diet Water whenever you go out to eat - with a serious face.
- 11. Specify that your drive-through order is "to go."
- 12. Sing along at the opera.
- 13. Put mosquito netting around your work area and play tropical sounds all day at work.
- 14. Go to a poetry recital and ask why the poems don't rhyme.
- 15. Five days in advance, tell your friends you can't attend their party because you're not in the mood.
- 16. Have your co-workers address you by your wrestling name, Rock Bottom.
- 17. When the money comes out the ATM, scream "I won! I won!"
- 18. When leaving the zoo, start running and yell, "run for your lives, they're loose!!"
- 19. Tell your children over dinner "due to the economy, we are going to have to let one of you go."
- 20. And the final way to keep a healthy level of insanity . . send this to someone to make them smile. It's called therapy.

(thanks to Lee Hamer for sending this!)

As the cops concentrated on holding down the other members of the cell, he was able to escape across Dallas Road and into the woods at the bottom of Cook Street. The police dogs would have his scent, so he pushed on as fast as possible, left hand clutching The Sacred Relic. He must find a place to hide it, for the Movement had been crushed after the Heatwave Riots of 2008 and all its valuables confiscated except this one. Hyperventilating, he ran blindly until an exposed Garry oak root caught his foot. He fell awkwardly; shattering the glass tube of the Sacred Relic against his wrist. Shards severed the ulnar artery and blended his blood with the tube's red liquid. With life ebbing away, he felt a dog's breath and heard a voice: "Got him, Chief. And I hope this is the last of the Fahrenheit People."

Hughie Quetton



Beacon Community Services

Thrift Shop

Borden & Mackenzie, Phone 479-8849
Open 9 to 8 M-F, 9 to 5 Sat, 10 to 4 Sun

Offering gently used clothing, jewellery, housewares, furniture, and much more at the lowest prices in the Victoria area!!!!

Enjoy volunteering? Call Trish at 479-3306

www.beaconcs.ca

JOBS !!

Sign up with Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group (VIPIRG) employment list-serve (it's free).

Check it out at:
<http://googlegroups.com/group/vipirg-joblist/subscribe>

Central America Support Committee

CASC

Join us first Wednesday of every month:
7:30 PM upstairs at 1923 Fernwood Road
Email: casc@telus.net
Phone: 598-7690
Web: <http://casc.communitytype.org/>



Café Simpatico
Victoria's Activist Coffeehouse
598-7690 • 1923 Fernwood Road

Fair trade organic coffee available by the cup or pound



#12 Centennial Square.
Tuesday to Friday 1pm to 5pm.
info@victoriacarshare.ca
www.victoriacarshare.ca

The Public Service Alliance of Canada is a proud sponsor of the
Victoria Street Newz

and member of the global campaign to
"Make Poverty History".

The PSAC is one of Canada's largest unions, with 160,000 members.



<http://www.psac-afpc.org>

Public Service Alliance of Canada • Alliance de la Fonction publique du Canada

North Park BICYCLE SHOP



250-386-2453

1725 Quadra



Making the world
a better place
one latte
at a time.

529 pandora ave
250-475-0477



Tony's Trailers

Bicycle trailers
for every person and purpose

766 Handy Road, Mill Bay
(250) 743-9915

tonyhoar@shaw.ca, tonystrailers.com

Contact Tony to learn how you can sponsor a mobile trailer for a homeless person!



Victoria
Street
Newz
October
circulation:
1700

THE YOUTH LINE 386-TALK

You're Not The Only One.

Call Anytime. Youth-to-Youth Support.
Get Information on Community Services.
No Judgements. Totally Confidential.

www.YouthLines.ca

Express Yourself!

Write your MP
no postage required.

C/O House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A
0A6. Call 1-800-622-6232,
TTY: 1-800-465-7735

Federal MPs:

www.vindicator.ca/vindicator/membersList.asp

Provincial MLAs:

<http://www.legis.gov.bc.ca/mla/3-1-3.htm>

Serving Our Community



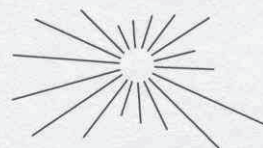
1020 Hillside Avenue
Phone: 250 360 2023
rob.fleming.mla@leg.bc.ca

Rob Fleming, MLA
Victoria - Hillside



Sunshine Communications.ca

250.592.8307



Kealey Pringle, Alan Rycroft and Associates
Fund Development, Media, Web Sites, Writing

info@SunshineCommunications.ca

Victoria Seniors' Advocacy Service

Sponsored by the Greater Victoria Seniors (OAPSO)

Blanshard Community Centre, at King and Dowler,
Tuesday mornings from 9:00 am to noon,
Thursday afternoons from 1 pm until 4 pm

The phone number is 388 - 7696.

Close to both #4 and #6 buses, at Quadra and Hillside.

We will defend the rights of seniors in the lower Island area, without any fee to the senior. Services range from supporting Seniors needing help as they work to get the services to which they are entitled, to advocating for change in the systems of service delivery.

Victoria Street Newz Distribution Team



Ken



Debbie



John



Rick

If you'd like to check us out, join us, or share a conversation and a cup of tea or coffee, you can find some or all of us at the Solstice Café most Tuesdays and Fridays, 10 am - noon.

Street Newz content is available for reprinting with permission of the author.

Please give us some credit and reference the source.



John



Marlene



Kay
(vender emeritus)



Ted & Bok

Counting the Beans			
	July	August	Sept
Operating Revenue			
Coordinator's Revenue			
Paper Sales (from vendors)	620.00	580.00	656.00
Donations	140.00	300.00	110.00
Salary from B & R	600.00	600.00	650.00
Belfry Bottles	0.00	0.00	40.00
Total Coordinator's Revenue	1360.00	1480.00	1456.00
B&R Revenue (deposited)			
Advertising	250.00	0.00	0.00
Donations	50.00	50.00	530.00
Subscriptions	20.00	100.00	35.00
Grant Monies	1000.00	1000.00	0.00
Total B&R Rev. (deposited)	1320.00	1150.00	565.00
Total Operating Revenue	1360.00	1480.00	1456.00
Operating Expenses			
Coordinator's Expenses			
Paper & Printing Costs	593.35	557.54	579.28
Office expenses	21.00	39.00	195.00
Misc. (postage, fees, etc.)	37.11	77.91	61.26
Replacement Camera	0.00	0.00	390.00
Community reciprocity	80.00	75.00	105.00
Total Coordinator's Expenses	731.46	749.45	1330.54
B & R Expenses			
Bus Tickets (2 for 1)	35.00	35.00	35.00
fm City of Vic Grant	0.00	50.00	50.00
fm Vancity Grant	500.00	500.00	500.00
fm KAIROS Grant	50.00	25.00	50.00
fm PSAC Grant	50.00	25.00	50.00
sub ttl B&R Expenses	635.00	635.00	685.00
Total Operating Expenses	1366.46	1384.45	2015.54
Ttl Coord Rev minus Expenses (- is out of pocket, + is salary)	-6.46	95.55	-559.54

Thanks to these Generous Supporters!!



Street Newz Subscriptions

While Street Newz vendors appreciate your direct purchases, subscriptions and donations help offset production costs. A subscription (\$35 or more/yr or \$20 low-income) is a wonderful gift for you, or a friend!

Name:

Address:

City:

Province/State:

Postal/Zip:

Phone/email:

- ☐ Deliver to me, at the address above
- ☐ Deliver to my friend, at this address:

Name:

Address:

City:

Province/State:

Postal/Zip:

Ph/email:

please make cheques payable to

Victoria Street Newz,
1027 Pandora Ave., Victoria BC, V8V 3P6
Coast Salish Territories

archives are at: relativenewz.ca

Thanks for your support!!

A Great Big Thank You !!

New or renewed subscribers: BC Legislative Library

Creative Contributors: Betty Krawczyk, Anonymous, Janine Bandcroft, Lee Hamer, Mary, Brian Mason, Shane Simpson, Jack Etklin, Cathy Woods, Jim Erkiletian, Nicole Moyal, Jerry Li Xie, C.L'Hirondelle, Andre Mollon, Debbie, Red, John Ducker, David Arthur Johnston, George Simich, Bob Le Blanc, Gerry Masuda, W. Robert Arnold, j fisher, Paul Burnside, Mark Idczak, Hughie Quetton

Extra generous supporters: Ron MacIsaac, Lyn X, George Ferdinands, Vicki Munch, Jay Glass, Christina Nikolic, Tarja Halmekangas, Marion Cumming, Landon & Amanda

Special thanks: Jeff Weaver & the CBC, Marianne & Terry, Tony Hoar, Sandy Mayzell, Jim Hedger, Harry Abrams, Joan Bandcroft, Al Rycroft, Cathie Boies-Parker, Lisa Helps, Landon & Amanda, Nathan Reed, Sonya & the Compost Centre, Gary & North Park Bike Shop, Tony Hoar, Kim & Gay @ Raincoast Business Centre, Dwayne & Roseanne Rowe, Shirley Hollingsworth, Gerry Masuda, Betsy Nuse, CFUV, Trish, Ian & Alain, Dave Nyhuis, all the good folk who voted for relativenewz.ca & givemeaning.com,

And anyone else I may have missed - we couldn't do it without you!!